Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, South Dakota was founded with hard work, perseverance, dedication to duty, and concern for others, and each of these attributes can be ascribed to Gale Walker, who has been one of the best ambassadors for rural health care and will be retiring after serving over 40 years; and,

Whereas, Gale's depth of knowledge of rural health care and his progressive approach has established Parkston, South Dakota, as a model for how to provide health care services for the community, including Avera St. Benedict's being the first critical access hospital in the nation to offer telemedicine ICU services; and,

Whereas, Gale has been called upon to serve on many state advisory groups and task forces aimed at improving health care including the Health Care Commission, Medicaid Solutions Workgroup, Long Term Care Task Force, Primary Care Task Force Oversight Committee, Nursing Home Right Sizing Committee, and Council on Aging; and,

Whereas, Gale has been an advocate for, and enthusiastic user of, state programs such as Camp Meds and Scrubs Camps, Rural Experiences for Health Professional Students, Frontier and Rural Medicine, and recruitment incentive programs, to build and strengthen health care in Parkston and the surrounding area; and,

Whereas, Gale has gone the extra mile to build relationships with medical students and physicians to recruit them and their families to Parkston; and,

Whereas, Gale has been a trusted advisor to the state and has worked hand-in-hand with the Departments of Health and Social Services to improve health care, not only for Parkston, but for the entire state; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to make special note of this outstanding South Dakotan and his contributions to health care on a local, state, and national level:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 31, 2017, as

GALE WALKER DAY

in South Dakota, and I join his family, friends, and colleagues in offering him best wishes for an enjoyable retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Sixteenth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seventeen.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Teresa J. Bray, Deputy Secretary

Shantel Krebs, Secretary of State